LONGSIGHT NEWS

No.... 5 JUNE-JULY 75 .... 4p

GOING GOING GONE

BERGERS CLOSE DOWN

Can you find a fishmongers, a leather goods dealers, a photographic shop or a jewellers in all of Longsight? No, not since the last shops of this kind were demolished on Stockport Rd over the past 3 years. Bergers the hardware dealers (photo) has just closed after 45 years' trading on Stockport Rd.

The day he closed Mr Berger said "It's a terrible upset. Who in their right mind would want to move? Now we're moving to the Market Hall, Stockport. I couldn't afford to rent from Manchester Council."

OLD-STYLE SHOPS

Bergers was a very good shop of it's kind: a general hardware store where you could depend on getting what you wanted, or having it ordered. Shops like Cales (fishmongers) and Mazurs (leather goods) which also gave a specialist service, personal and reliable, have gone too. And their kind of service will not be found either in the supermarkets which get most of their trade but aren't owned by the people who work in them, or on Longsight Market. On the market (open 3 days only) the range of goods isn't wide and you must "take it or leave it".

Since 1969 more than 290 (out of a total 324) shops and offices between Ardwick Green and Dickenson Rd have been lost. When demolition is complete, a full 300 businesses will have gone.

The Town Hall , by knocking a lot of Longsight homes on health grounds, were able to include the shopfronts on Stockport Rd thus gaining a lot of land and PUTTING US AT THE TOWN HALL'S MERCY for our supply of shops. We depend on the council both for Longsight Market and for new shopping precincts.

But the little 10-shop precinct at Devonshire St is so expensive that some older Longsight shopkeepers cannot rent them. Rent is at least £1200 a year and rates £900 to £1000. That's why Bergers couldn't stay in Longsight and probably why Radiven's greengrocers who were very popular while at Dicky Rd, have closed down after attempting to run at the Devonshire St precinct.

LONDON FIRM

The big shopping precinct has yet to come. Work might begin (on the railway side of Stockport Rd) by the end of this year but money is scarce and the completion date not certain. The Planning Dept say perhaps 79, perhaps 1980-81.

The shops will not be owned by local traders. Nor by the council. The land is being leased by London property developers J R Godfrey & Associates who will rent the shops to whoever can afford them.

Bergers held on as long as they could. But plans have been laid and there seems little that can be done to stop the way Stockport Rd is being developed. For the present we are at the mercy of the council and J R Godfrey but local people may find a way of staking their claim.....

Manchester - Periodicals A-

LETTERS

FUNERALS

The following letter was originally written to the Editor of the Manchester Evening News, but he did not publish it.

Dear Sir,

Having been called upon to officiate at Secular Funeral Services held at the Manchester Crematorium recently, it occurs to me that there are many people in Manchester who are unaware that that a local organization exists whose members are willing to carry out such a service for non-believers etc.

Our Association is always ready to advise and assist members and non-members alike, at all times.

Yours sincerely,
George Mills.
(Secretary)

94, Hamilton Rd

CHURCH UNITY

Dear "Longsight News",

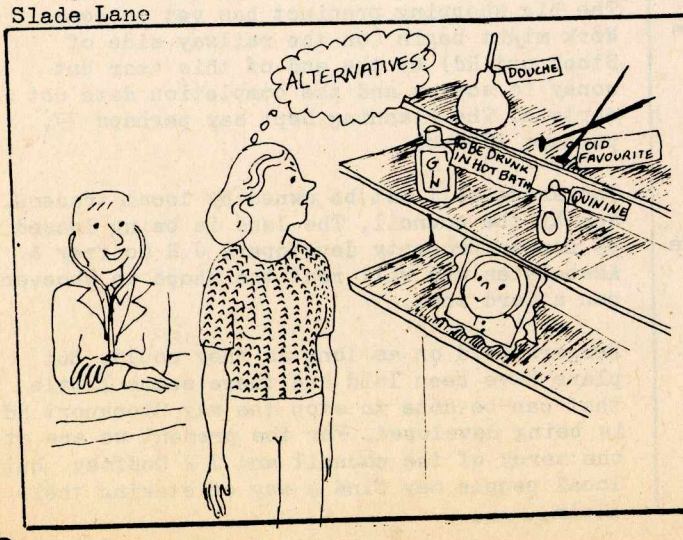
I agree with Mr Wolstenholme's statement in your April issue that the reconciliation of the different churches in Christendom is long overdue, but there are better ways of bringing it about than wishing us a dose of the plague!

Take for instance Christian Aid Week, the churches' annual collection of money for development aid to the poor countries of the "Third World". In this effort Christians of all denominations take part, and people of all religions subscribe, and benefit.

I hope that this neighbourhood will give generously and if you were unable to give during the week (May 18 - 25), I will gladly pass on your donations.

Yours,
Henry Mayor

St Agnes Rectory,
Slade Lane



WOMEN'S RIGHTS STALL??

For three Saturday's running a group of us petitioned in the middle of Longsight Market ...before we were asked to leave ...and that we could apply to the Town Hall for a stall if we so wished (or stand on the pavement by the market). The following week we were asked to leave the pavement so we've been out-side Madsega's ever since. A market stall would cost £4 and none are available on Sats. Through discussing James White's abortion amendment with local women many issues have been raised and it seems a permanent stall is needed where women can discuss their rights, obtain literature and information. We feel that if support for this idea is strong enough the council should let us have a stall.

The response to our petition (against the amendment) has been good, and once people know of the bill's intention many feel very angry about it. James White's Abortion Amendment has passed its second reading (only one more to go!) and is being discussed by a select committee of 4 women and 11 men, 8 of whom are against abortion anyway. it may be law by Xmas. Supporters of this bill claim that they only want to stop abuses in the 1967 Act ... this's not true... If the changes go through at least 80% of women now able to get an abortion will not be able to do so. All the following would not qualify:

1) Rape victims,
2) Girls under 16,
3) Unmarried or unsupported mothers,
4) Women who would have to give up their work to have a child,
5) Women between 35 & 45, where the risk of having a handicapped child is high.
6) Women who cannot support another child
7) Women whose marriages for one reason or another are threatened by pregnancy

THE RICH , OF COURSE, WILL STILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE

No woman has an abortion lightly. It is a serious and difficult decision, but we believe it is a woman's right to decide. We believe that if the changes to the Act are passed it will be a return to the horrors of backstreet abortions. Women will have abortions, except that they will have to risk their health and maybe their life. Nobody has the right to put women in this position. Unless abortion fills the gap where contraception fails, women will never be able to plan their lives and careers.

LOCAL ACTION

This law will not stop abortions , but it it will prevent safe, legal ones. If you feel strongly about this local action is important! You can write to your MP, Kaufman sits on the fence on this issue. Come and see us at the Market, between 11am and 1pm on Sats. There is a march on June 7th, meeting at Albert Sq. at 2.30pm, followed by a public meeting in Houldsworth Hall at 4pm.

WE MUST STOP THIS AMENDMENT!!!

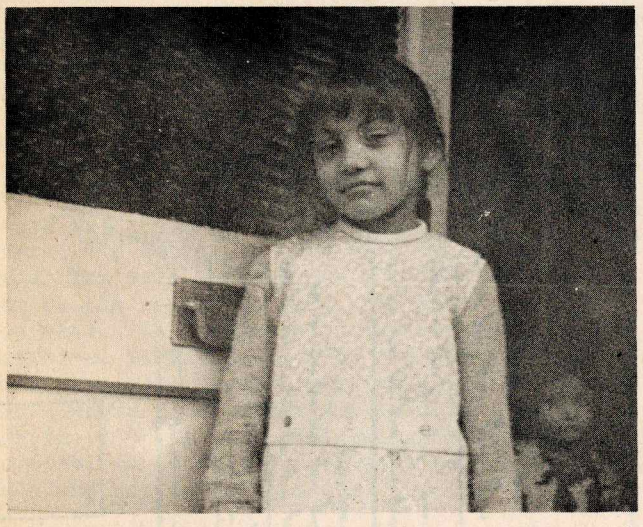
Anne Munro, 4 Leedale St.

3603772(AC) Manchester. Periodicals A-Z/B

HAMILTON ROAD ACCIDENTS

The following accidents have been reported to Longsight News since our last report:
1. April 10th, 1pm. A crash at the corner of Hamilton Rd and Clitheroe Rd.
2. April 15th, at the junction of Slade Grove and Hamilton Rd. Sadna Patel, aged 6 from Slade Grove was knocked down and taken to hospital with bruised legs.
3. 15th April. Collision on corner of Hamilton Rd and Dickenson Rd.
4. 7th May. Mr Tarr of Oakwood Rd, Wilmslow was taken to hospital with an injured leg after his motor-bike was in collision with a car at the Stamford Rd - Hamilton Rd junction. The driver of the car ran off through the entries.
5. End of May. Crash at the Slade Lane - Hamilton Rd junction.
6. Same day, accident at the Dicky Rd end in which a car mounted the pavement and went into the wall.

SADNA PATEL, KNOCKED DOWN BY CAR



COUNCIL BREAK PROMISE

At the April meeting of the Highways Committee a complaint from the Traffic Action Group was read out. The complaint was about the way residents had been promised a meeting with town hall officials BEFORE the final decision was taken regarding the traffic lights at the Slade Lane end of Hamilton Rd. The intention of these lights is to encourage more traffic to use these streets as rat-runs. The promised meeting never happened and the lights have now been installed.

The City Engineer, Mr Read, and the Chairman of the Highways, Mr Crank, had decided to EXCLUDE members of the public and the press from their discussions on Hamilton Rd. Fortunately some councillors saw the injustice of this and the decision was reversed. Residents were not allowed to speak, but they heard the committee's ideas for encouraging traffic to come off the other streets and onto Hamilton Rd. Parking restrictions on one or both sides of Hamilton Rd were also mentioned.

After the new lights have been operating for a bit, the Traffic Group is to be invited to state it's views to the Committee. Please contact Dorothy Graham or someone at the Neighbourhood Centre if you want your views to be represented. The Group is concerned not only with Hamilton Rd but all the streets in the area. If you prefer to see a councillor about it, none of our councillors is on this committee but we suggest you go to Cllr. Finlay of Ardwick who has asked to be kept in touch with residents views.

HOUSING VICTORIES

We are happy to announce that the saga of Jane Anderson (recounted in Longsight News No 3) has finally reached a pleasing conclusion. Also that of the Muldoon family formerly of Duncan Rd. In the latter case the weather and housing conditions refused to comply with the 'dictat' of the town hall; the Muldoons were driven prematurely to take refuge in more suitable quarters. Both these families have now been issued with those hallowed symbols of respectability, RENT BOOKS!! We wish them both a long and happy tenure after their prolonged battles for recognition.

PLAYSPACE AT ST. JOHN'S

"WE, THE UNDERSIGNED PARENTS OF CHILDREN ATTENDING ST JOHN'S C of E,, MITRE RD, LONGSIGHT, MANCHESTER M13 DNU,, OBJECT TO THE INADEQUATE PLAY SPACE PROVIDED FOR THESE CHILDREN AND WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST THAT THE PLAYGROUND BE EXTENDED TO THE WASTE GROUND AT THE SIDE OF THE SCHOOL."

Yvonne Bennett, one of the parents, is taking the petition round to all the other parents of children at St Johns. "I feel it is very important to do this, but the teachers have too much to do already." If other parents would help, or wish to sign the petition, contact Yvonne at 24 Albert Place.

LONGSIGHT LIBRARY CHILDRENS' CLUB

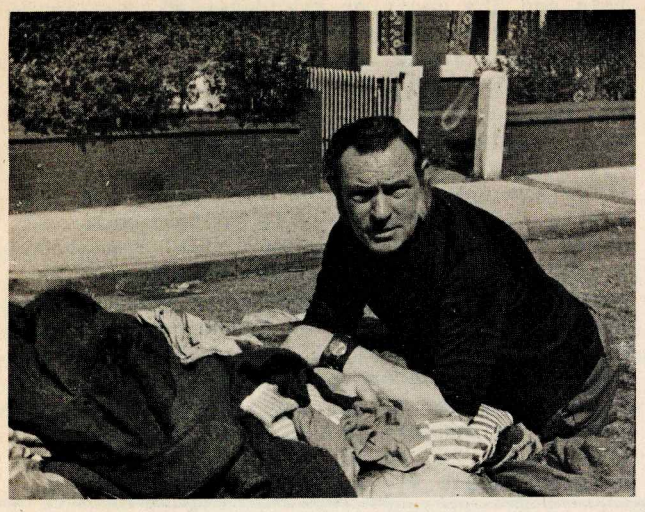
The storytime club was launched last September. It is held every Wednesday, from 4.15pm - 5.00pm. All children from about 7 years upwards are welcomed. It embraces all kinds of activities ie. pencil and paper games, model making, word games, drawing and painting, quizzes and a story-time.

We have from 15 to 20 children each week. Many attended as a result of visiting the library with their respective schools. Others came along by themselves.

During the summer holiday, (beginning the 30th July) we are hoping to extend our Wednesday afternoon club, to a full days summerscheme. It will involve outings to the seaside, visits to places of interest, games and activities in the open air (weather pemitting!) Everyone is welcome. We would welcome any parent or relation, with a few hours to spare, to join us on this Wednesday project, and give us a helping hand.

Mrs Pat Coleman, librarian, and Mrs Barbara Barraclough, children's librarian, extend to all children an invitation to join us at our club or on our summerscheme. And the girls on the library staff look forward to seeing you soon.

TATTERS SPEAKS OUT!



TWO OF LONGSIGHT'S TATTERS (RAG-BONE MEN) TALK WITH MICHAEL BRENNAN. ALL PRICES QUOTED ARE FOR LATE 1974, EARLY '75.

"WHAT HAPPENED TO THE HORSE?"

DO YOU COME THIS WAY OFTEN?
Come this way often! I'm 18 years coming around here. I know the people and they know me. I've lived up in Fairfield St for 20-odd years, and I do Levenshulme and Longsight. I used to have a horse in the early years. There was a grand trade then. We'd go portering spuds to the chip shops, and vegetables twice a week.
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE HORSE?
Had to get rid of him! You couldn't get a stable for love or money.
DO YOU SORT OUT THE RAGS ON YOUR CART?
Oh yes. Otherwise you'd only get a third of the the price. The rubbishy stuff goes to make rough rags for factories and underfelt for carpets. You only get a dollar (25p) a hundredweight for it. But for cloth (tweed, trousers etc) - we call it Marina in the trade - you get 25/- to 15/- a hundredweight, depending on the quality. And for wool, 2/6 to 1/3 a pound.
DO YOU EVER GET ANYTHING VALUABLE THROWN OUT?
Ah yes, now and again! If an old person dies the relations might clear out the house and you get a bit of antique. I know a dealer I've gone to for years and he gives me a fair price.
PEOPLE THINK RAG-BONE, AND SCRAPMEN LIKE YOURSELF MAKE A LOT OF MONEY.
Make money is it? You're supposed to stamp your card for £2 a week. I let it go two years one time and it ran up to £140 or so. I told them I didn't collect rags in the winter and we agreed on £73.
The weather's been so bad these last weeks I think I'll be jumping indoors now and get a little job for a few months. It's better in the summer but it's no joke to keep going, no joke at all.
SOME PEOPLE BLAME RAG BONE MEN LIKE YOURSELF FOR SORTING RAGS IN THE ENTRIES AND LEAVING THEM THERE.
I suppose some men do it but if I don't want a rag I say "No ma'am, put it in your dustbin", and that's it.

He stepped out in the rain bareheaded. He is a man who lives in a crummy neighbourhood and pushes a barrow around back-entries, shouting for dirty rags. Even if he made a lot of money you'd hardly call that a life of luxury. He wears a coloured neckerchief that reminded me of the travelling people. His father was a horse-dealer, he said, but not a traveller.

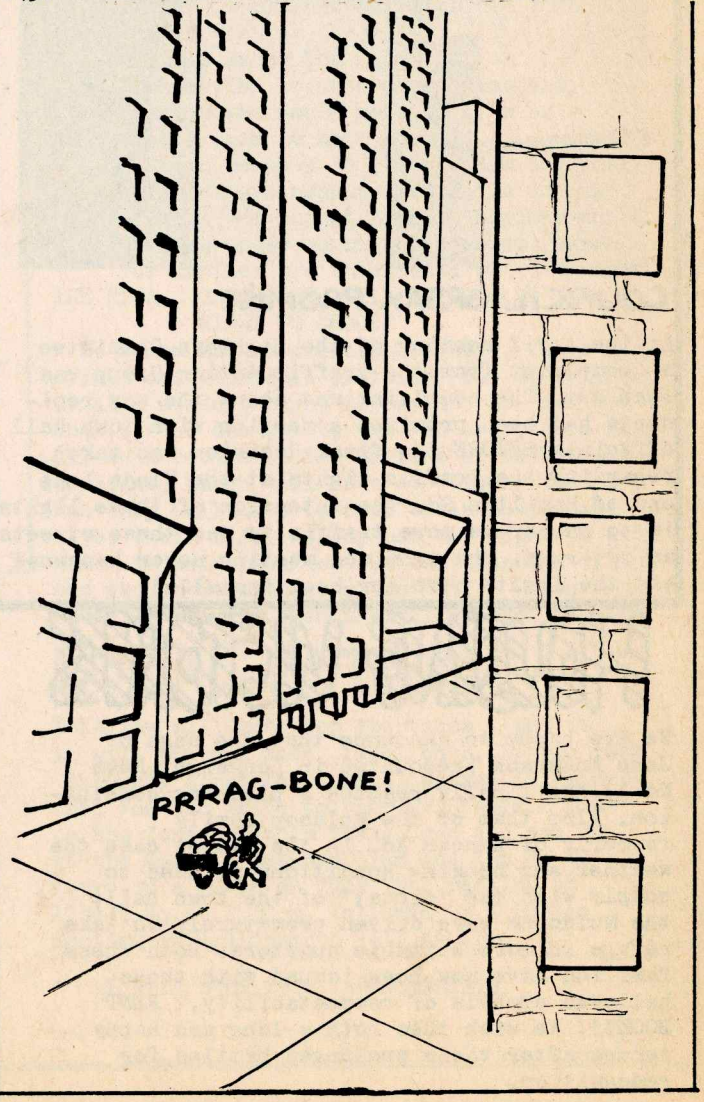
MALLOW MAN

Nick from Clayton (photo) told me that he's been 14 years in the rag trade. "You have to travel further now to make anything" He quoted the prices: Cloth (coats, tweed) - £2 per hundredweight; shirts etc. for dusters - 14/- per hundredweight; wool 2/6 a pound.

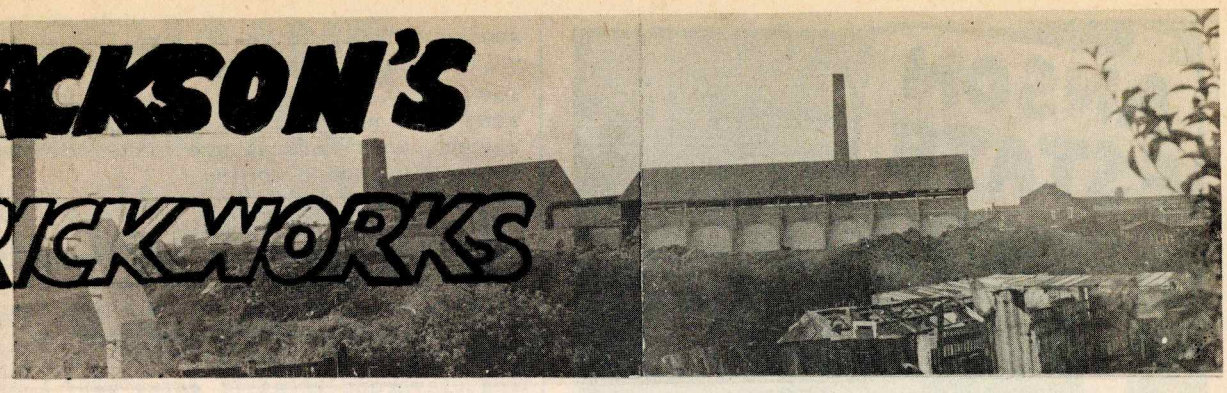
"I sort them out in the yard", he said, "though a woman threatened to get the police the other day. She thought it was me dumped a load in the entry. I said go ahead, get the police.

There was a living in it once, but not now. Still, it'll never die out. I'd go home to my old town, Mallow, if I could get a house there.

My best day was a death. We call it a death. It was a dressmaker. She left a lot of heavy material. I made three journeys to the yard, £45. Nothing like that before or since."



JACKSON'S BRICKWORKS



In Longsight News No. 2 we reported the closure of Jackson's brickworks on East Rd. Now we hear that a property company have applied for planning permission to use a part of the site for light industry and to demolish most of the works buildings.

Longsight News spoke to Jackson's and they said that the brickworks on East Rd will never be re-opened. They were badly hit by the big slump in building last year, which was the worst ever.

The property company is Christian Salvesen Ltd of Whelmar House, 100 Chorley Rd, Swinton. They now own all Jackson's property in Manchester.

A spokesman for the company said they were rationalising the old firm; modernising some plants but finding alternative uses for others. "In Denton we have been building houses for sale at £7,000 - £7,500 which is what people need," he said. "We don't yet know what will be done with the Pink Bank Lane site, it will depend on the cost of demolishing the present buidings. If that is very high we'll use them for industry. We know the council are considering buying the claypits but it will be 30 years before that land can be built on."

LOCAL SURVEY

The Planning Dept, when contacted by Longsight News, said they had sent out 30 "neighbourhood advice cards" to houses in the Pink Bank Lane and McKenzie St area. Over a third of the people contacted had replied and most didn't like the idea of having a factory on the site. The planner was sympathetic to this view. "We had thought of that area as mainly residential", he said. "In fact in a few months we will be doing some sort of survey in the Stanley Grove, Knutsford Vale, Manby Rd area to find out what the residents feel should happen to the land in their area in the long-term. First we will sort out what the options are, recreational, housing, industry, educational etc, and then we'll find out what residents think.

"They may also have special needs which we haven't thought of like a youth club and we will be interested in that. It will be a local planning exercise and we'll welcome residents comments."They can be sent to Tom Dunnon, Planning Dept, Town Hall. Longsight News would also like to hear people's ideas for their own areas.

POLICE QUESTION MINORS

An incident has been reported to us concerning a 14-year old boy suspected by the police of breaking a window.

The person whose window had been broken, who is also a friend of the lad's family, saw him being literally dragged past her front door. She called out to the police that he was only 14 but they took no notice but dragged him right past his mother's door, into a police car and took him down to the police station.

At the station he was not only questioned but also beaten about, by a P.C. Kelly. Eventually the case came up in court and he was found not guilty. But even if he had been guilty of the offence he was suspected of by the police, they had no right to treat him in this way.

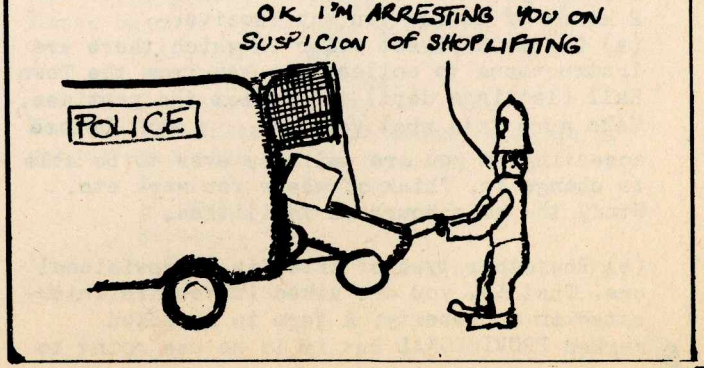
This was only one of many incidents concerning young people and children who are picked up by the police on suspicion of some minor offence, or sometimes it's more like a pretence of a suspicion like the boy who lit a fire was taken away "on suspicion of stealing firelighters" which in fact his mother had given him, or the kids who had climbed a roof to recover a lost ball who were taken away on suspicion of attempting to break in!

The legal position is this: POLICE DO NOT HAVE A RIGHT TO TAKE ANYONE UNDER THE AGE OF 17 AWAY FOR QUESTIONING. THE PARENTS HAVE A RIGHT TO BE PRESENT AT THE QUESTIONING.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

If this happens to one of your children it is worth making a formal complaint. This will probably not be accepted by the police but it will make them think, and realise they can't get away with this practice without protest. But a word of warning - 2 parents made a complaint about this before and were eventually talked out of it by the police. So stand firm!

A. Otten



There are a few jobs waiting to be done which no-one will take responsibility for, Wimpey says they are Direct Works and vice-versa. A lady at 12 Roker Ave is still waiting for new windows to finish her house, her window frames are rotten, so when it's decided who will be putting in a new frame she might get her windows in!! Still this argument has only been going on 8 months so there's time yet!

Numerous things like windows being painted whilst closed are now coming to light.
The Council are very slow at paying up the rent free period allowed for inconvenience caused, most tenants are still waiting after being finished 6 months.

There are lots of tenants complaining about the state their gardens have been left in, there was supposed to be a team coming round finally to clear up, but we think they have got lost as we haven't seen them yet.

The playgroup is still going very succesfully, always plenty on the waiting list and a full house every day. If anyone has any small bicycles or prams no longer in use the playgroup would be very pleased to have them.

Any able-bodied person with an hour to spare, interested in a voluntary scheme to do gardens for local O.A.P.'s? The council will do them, I know, but you have to be on the list a year before you want your garden done and then its only a quick massacre once a year. All offers of help to 26 Elsdon Rd (225 9546) or 114 Beresford Rd

M. Thierens

PROBLEMS after NOTICE OF ENTRY

1. Gas and Electricity.
In the cases of flats and multi-occupied premises there is a serious problem when the landlord disclaims any further responsibility for dealing with these bills. The gas and electric departments insist that someone must declare themselves responsible otherwise the meters will be taken out. It can be either an individual or joint responsibility, but one or the other it must be, they say. One can see difficulties if the tenants cannot agree on some arrangement between themselves.

The situation might even be worse. If the landlord is in arrears it is the custom of these Depts to demand a deposit of £25 (now I believe £30) from the next consumer. Whether this applies to Clearance Areas is not clear. If any multi-occupants are troubled with disagreement on these points, we would be interested to hear from them at the Hamilton Rd Centre (113)

2. You are no longer required to pay rent unless you live in furnished rooms. In the latter case, since the landlord is no longer paying rates you should be paying, at most, a reduced rent for hire of furniture.

3. Next you will receive an offer. There are 2 kinds of notice you may receive:-
(a) One is a direct offer in which there are instructions to collect the key from the Town Hall (lettings dept) to inspect the premises. Make sure it's what you want before accepting as you are unlikely ever to be able to change it. Think of where you work etc. Study the neighbourhood facilities.

(b) The other type of offer is a provisional one. That is, you are asked if you are interested in a property. A form is supplied marked PROVISIONAL but it is no use going to the town hall for the key. By filling in the form you commit yourself to nothing but an interest, after which you will be sent a form later when the house and key are ready for your inspection.

On acceptance you should receive two forms, a Home Loss Compensation form if you have been in the same house for five years or over, and a disturbance allowance form for all cases. The Home Loss is best filled in at once as it takes time (about 3 months) before you are paid. It is three times the rateable value of your home. The Disturbance Allowance form should not be sent in until after you have moved and are settled in. All the costs of moving e.g. alterations in curtains, carpets, lino etc should be included but not the actual hire of removal itself. This is done by J W Street and Son of Levenshulme. The Housing Dept make the arrangements and it is free to you. Save all bills of costs to you in moving. It is best to get a surveyor to help you fill in the disturbance form otherwise you may not know all you are entitled to. I recommend as your surveyor Mr Roger Hannah, 32 Booth St, M/cr. 2. Tel 236 0545. Again his services are paid for by the Corporation so it won't cost you anything.

Rehousing is a difficult time but it is easier if you can get the best the council will give you. Make sure you get your repairs done first, a satisfactory house and the money you are entitled to.

When you leave, please ensure that all the rubbish you are leaving behind is INSIDE the house, not in the yard, and it can then be bricked up and will not cause any litter and health problems.

Also, if you are abandoning any old furniture, you could let the Neighbourhood Centre know as other people might be glad to have it.

Jack Wolstenholme

BIRCH LANE RESIDENTS

TOWN HALL PROMISES TO BUY EMPTY HOUSES.

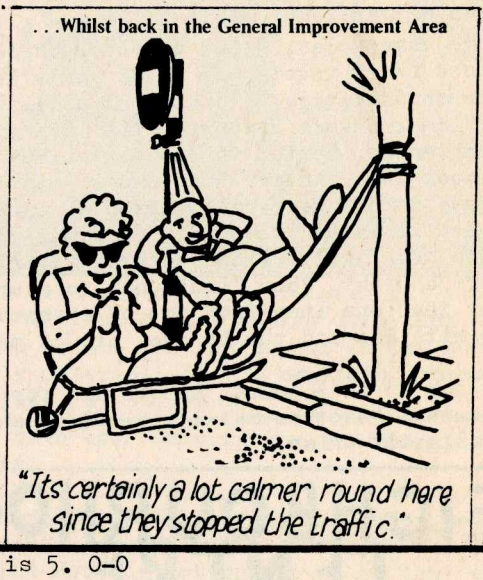
On the 15th May the Birch Lane Residents Association held an Extra-ordinary Committee Meeting at St Johns school. At this meeting members of the residents association met with Cllr Alan Roberts, Chairman of the Housing Committee and and Mr Perrett, Area Co-ordinator to find out more about the future of the area.

It was an extremely informative meeting during which Cllr Roberts instructed Mr Perrett to note addresses of a number of abandoned properties in the area with a view to buying them. (The association is making a list of abandoned properties in the area; if you know of any please contact the secretary Mrs A Barnaby at 72 Birch Lane, Tel: 225 9287). Cllr Roberts also promised to let the secretary have a supply of leaflets and application forms for Improvement Grants. Any owner occupier interested in applying for an improvement grant, should get in touch with the secretary at the above address.

Cllr Roberts pointed out that the more people applied for grants, the more we can show that people are interested in improving the area and the sooner the area will be declared a G.I.A. Other points in favour of declaring the area a G.I.A. (General Improvement Area) were that the area is surrounded by re-development and improvement areas and the Health Dept has stated that the houses are suitable for improvement.

When asked directly if there were plans to pull down any more houses in the area, Mr Goodhead replied NO, THERE WERE NO PLANS TO PULL DOWN MORE HOUSES IN THE AREA. He went on to say that the areas to be improved in the next two years will be decided in July, and our area is among those to be considered.

The Birch Lane residents association strongly recommend that anyone interested in improving their houses should apply NOW. The area will be improved. When it is improved depends on the residents.



CHESS

By far the biggest majority of chess games are decided by tactical means, that is by one or the other player, at some point in the game slipping up in defense or attack, very often, even when the victim has the superiority in position or material. In the game below the opponents were two old time masters both noted for their attacking powers but, as was usual with most old-timers, not possessing much acumen in positional or strategical play. It may be significant that Bobby Fisher, the present World Champion is noted for the unprecedented amount of time he has put in, studying the games of the old-timers; perhaps we might benefit likewise!

BRESLAU 1859!!

A. ANDERSSEN v DR. MAX LANGE

1. P-K4 P-K4
2. N-KB3 N-QB3
3. B-N5 ....

The Ruy Lopes opening, one of the strongest openings for sustained pressure.

3. .... N-Q5

This is Bird's Defence, nowadays classified by Modern Chess Openings as an 'oddity' but still played at times and never refuted. Black seeks to rid himself of the irksome pin at once. White cannot play 4. NxP because of 4. ...Q-N4 when White is in real trouble.

4. NxN PxN
5. B-B4 ....

Best is 5. O-O

5. .... N-B3
6. P-K5 P-Q4
7. B-N3 B-KN5!

Beginning of a deep well-laid plot!

8. P-KB3 N-K5!

If now 9. PxB? Q-R5ch; 10. P-N3 (But not 10. K-B2, Q-B7ch; 11. K-Q3, N-B4 Mate)

10. .... NxNP and White is in great trouble. Perhaps best was 9. P-KN3, B-R4; but then White gets nothing but a weakened king side out of it. Obviously he hopes for more.

9. O-O, P-Q6?!

Cheeky! Soundest was 9. .... B-R4; 10. P-N4, B-N3; 11. PxN, PxP with good play for the piece.

10. PxB?? ....

Fortune favours the brave. White cracks under pressure. Correct was 10. Q-K1 and Black would be hard pressed for a good continuation.

10. .... B-B4ch
11. K-R1 N-N6ch!
12. PxN Q-N4
13. R-B5 P-KR4!!

Black handles the attack superbly

14. NPxP QxR
15. P-N4 RxPch!!
16. PxR Q-K5!

Keeping the White KN Pawn pinned down so he cannot evade the mating threats.

17. Q-B3 Q-R5ch
18. Q-R3 Q-K8ch

Resigns

After 19. K-R2, B-N8ch! 20. K-R1, B-B7 dis. ch; 21. K-R2, Q-N8 Mate

Jack Wolstenholme

recipe corner: lentil hotpot

As meat becomes more expensive we begin to have to look for substitutes. Try lentils which are much cheaper than meat and have no storage problems.

2 medium carrots
3 oz lentils
1 large onion
4 medium potatoes
2 oz butter
1 pint stock; or hot water plus yeast extract
3 tablespoons tomato puree
2 chopped mushrooms
2 or 3 tomatoes
seasoning and herbs to taste.
Grease casserole (including lid).

Prepare vegetables, slice carrots, onions and potatoes (Vary vegetables in season - leeks, spring onions, peas, broad beans etc). Gently cook onions in butter till golden and almost tender. Remove to casserole. Put puree and stock into pan and heat, season to taste. Put tomatoes in casserole on top of onions, then lentils, then chopped mushrooms, then carrots and lastly sliced potatoes overlapping to form a crust. Pour liquid onto casserole not higher than one inch from top of casserole. Cover with lid and put in oven at Gas mark 2 (300°) for 2½ to 3 hours. Remove lid for last 15 minutes. Potatoes should be golden and outer ones slightly crisp.

NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE.

We're pleased to say that the Neighbourhood Centre is becoming more widely used. We held a "mini-social" and bring-and-buy sale in April and we hope that there will be other similar events.

We have quite a lot of second-hand clothes, furniture, etc and we always welcome more to give or sell to callers. A big thank you to everyone who has brought in clothes and old newspapers.

As well as the Advice Centre groups using the centre include, Hamilton Rd Adventure Play-scheme group, Birch Housing Co-op, Longsight News, various discussions on housing, Hamilton Rd traffic action group, Chess group, all of which welcome more members. A couple of workers from Levenshulme social services also have their youth group meeting on Thurs-days and the kids have started painting the room for us. There is still a lot of time when the centre isn't used so if you have ideas of things to do there please tell some-body in the advice office.

PROBLEMS

As usual the advice office has discussed a very varied set of problems with people who come in. The one which angered us most was the case of a young woman with three young children who had recently been widowed. She had been to claim the widow's pension at the Dept of Health and Social Security and they mucked her about a lot. At one stage they lost their record of the marriage and birth certificates and she had to take them in again yet they treated her as if it was her fault. After 4 weeks of this treatment she came to the centre. It was then that we discovered that the people in the social security pensions dept had never told her that she could claim supplementary benefit until the pension came through! She had been without money for 4 weeks because nobody told her she could get money if she went to the other counter downstairs. You'd think they could have been very much more considerate especially as the lady's husband had died so recently. Soon after her phone calls and our complaints from the centre she received her money. We have also written to complain to the Regional office. The whole incident shows how officials expect everyone to know their rights and understand complicated forms, and how unsympathetic they can be. We hope the Advice Centre can help you to deal with them, and also that our complaints can bring about small changes. Please tell us if you have complaints about the treatment you get from officials anywhere.

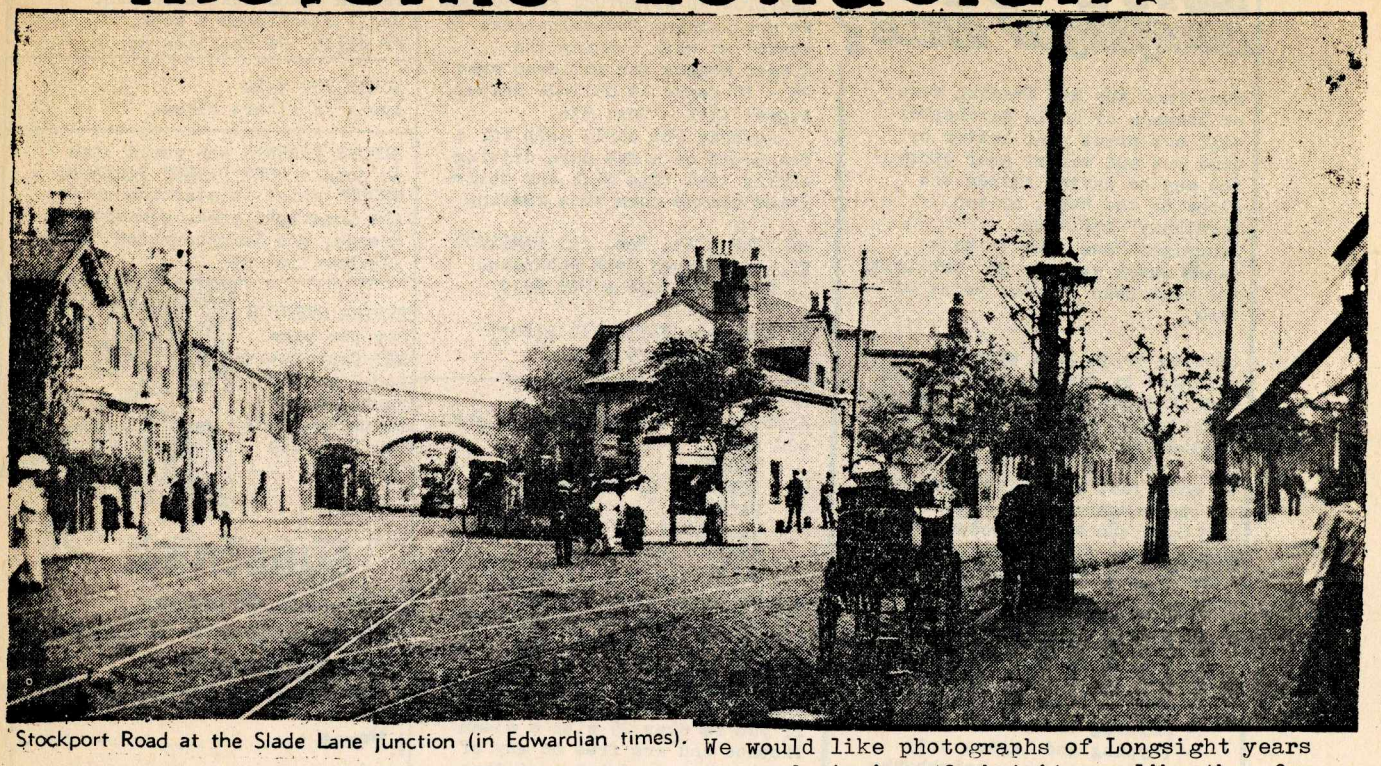
RUMOUR?

It is rumoured that most people in Longsight earn a fortune. If they don't, why is it that since our report on rate rebates, rent rebates (council tenants) and rent allowances (for private tenants in rooms, flats, or houses) only THREE people have collected application forms from the neighbourhood centre???

The Neighbourhood Centre is at 113 Hamilton Road.

Maggie Walker

HISTORIC LONGSIGHT



Stockport Road at the Slade Lane junction (in Edwardian times).

If you remember Stockport Rd and Slade Lane as they were in this picture perhaps you can contribute to Longsight News.

We would like photographs of Longsight years ago and stories of what it was like then for a regular column in this paper. But we need you to supply material. If you can help contact Janet Slade, 19 Duncan Rd

M.A.S.H.A.

MASHA is not, as someone suggested, a kitchen utensil to mash spuds with; it is in fact the initials of Manchester and Salford Housing Action. MASHA has been in existence for 2 years now. Its members are trying to help residents of Manchester and Salford improve their housing conditions. Meetings are held every few weeks with individuals and groups, who come and talk about their housing problems, ideas etc. From these discussions some action is decided eg. many areas threatened with clearance, like Longsight, Cheetham, and Withington, have been able to prepare cases for public enquiries to save their homes. Most of these groups have had some success and many homes have been saved. Some of the people involved in these areas still attend MASHA meetings, so that they can pass their information onto others.

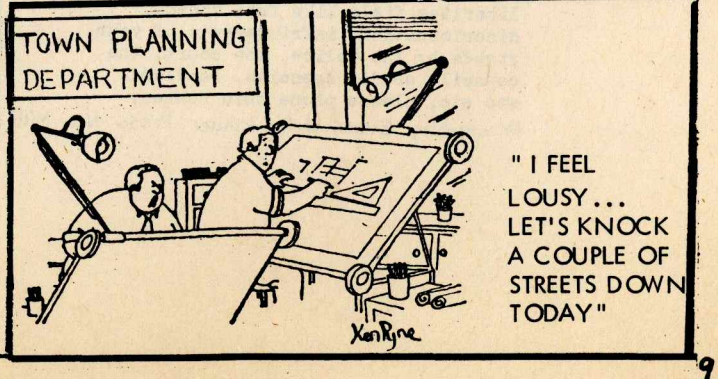
Of course the next problem for many residents is improvements. This is a major issue at present, since both Manchester and Salford have decided to improve rather than knock down houses. The councils are being very slow in getting round to improving houses. Recently a MASHA meeting was attended by Mr Ollerenshaw, who is directing the Improvement programme in Manchester. From this meeting information was obtained about improvements, which has been sent to all the groups who couldn't attend.

Another issue that has been brought to MASHA'S attention has been the fight for speedy rehousing in clearance areas, especially in one district of Lower Broughton, Salford, where clearance has been deferred for many years. Tenants have been campaigning for immediate rehousing.

In another district of Lower Broughton, several residents have joined together in the Salford Joint Housing Action Group, so that they can negotiate with Salford Council about the improvement of their area.

MASHA has also helped with planning conversions to the Battered Wive's hostel in Chorlton. People living in "walk-up" flats in Hulme and Collyhurst, are trying to improve their appalling housing conditions, preferably by being rehoused. MASHA is attempting to help these people in their fight for a decent home.

There are many more housing problems that can be shared and acted upon through meeting with MASHA members. If you feel that you'd like to join MASHA, to help fight for better housing conditions, then contact the secretary, Lil Bowers, 30 Albert Park Road, Salford 7. Tel. 792 3359. Subsciptions of £1 a year entitle groups to full membership plus free copies of the 2-monthly newsletter.



WHY A LONGSIGHT NEWS?

Sometimes the M/c Evening News, or Granada or Radio Manchester will not print your letter or come out and report your story. You may be saying things too close to the bone, or too "ordinary" for them.
Longsight News aims to be a paper where you can get publicity for your case or your point of view.

Stories which just give the facts will not be signed, but stories that include the writer's personal opinions will be signed or initialled.

We have just been given the use of the Neighbourhood Centre at 113 Hamilton Rd to produce the paper from. Please call or drop a line if you would like to help by:

- writing for the paper
- giving ideas for articles
- giving photos, drawings, cartoons
- advertising (free)
- helping the actual production (typing and laying out)
- selling to your neighbours

We don't make any profit, in fact we've made a loss but a donation has bridged the gap.

ADVERTISEMENTS

HAMILTON RD ADVENTURE PLAYSCHEME
We are looking for volunteers to assist us with running the summer scheme for children aged 2½ - 10 years at College Chapel, August 11th - Sept 5th.
Anybody who could help for a few hours or a few days driving during that time with any activities please come to a meeting

on JUNE 12th, 8pm, 113 HAMILTON RD, or contact Kath Robinson, 11 Wylie St, phone 225 9939

or Margaret Whyte, 16 Albert Place, phone 225 5912

ANY OLD.....
Anybody who can get hold of any old WOOD
TYRES
DRESSING UP CLOTHES
PAINTS
WALLPAPER
SAND ETC
for a children's play-scheme please tell Maggie Walker, 23 Clitheroe Rd or bring them to Neighbourhood centre, 113 Hamilton Rd.

DRIVERS NEEDED
If you're over 25 with a clean licence and are free on any of these dates to drive a minibus for the playscheme please tell Margaret Whyte 16 Albert Place, phone 225 5912:

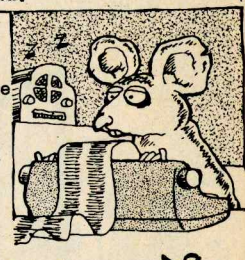
August:	Thurs 14th	Sun 24th
	Tues 19th	Tues 26th
	Thurs 21st	Thurs 28th

FRENCH CLASS FOR BEGINNERS.
Small class once a week.
Mr Mills 94 Hamilton Rd

HOUSE FOR SALE
Apply 24 Albert Place

SINGLE PARENTS who would like to join a "ONE PARENT FAMILIES GROUP" which is starting up in the Longsight area, contact Brenda, c/o Neighbourhood Centre 113 Hamilton Rd.

TYPING SERVICE
21p per page
SBD Cooperative
Local contact,
Fardijah, 159
Birchfields Rd
Tel 224-3156



SUBSCRIBE

20p for 5 issues
fill in coupon and return to
Longsight News
113 Hamilton Road, with 20p.

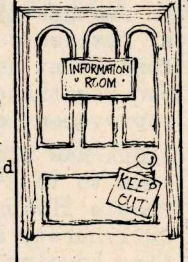
Name .....

Address .....

.....

STOP PRESS

A new activity will begin in the Neighbourhood Centre on Wed. evenings. A small group of people interested in Art are going to make PUPPETS. The puppets will then be used to put on plays about things they are concerned about. They would like other people to come in and help with making the puppets and doing plays. Leave your name and address at the centre or call on a Wed. night.



RIGHTS AID

If you need help defending your rights the National Council for Civil Liberties now have a service in Manchester which will help you. Open every night and evening (but not at present during the day - it is hoped to exrend it to 24 hours in October). It is called RIGHTS AID and the phone number is 273-4575.

If you have problems in the civil liberties field like free speech, discrimination, infringements of your rights by the police, the court, the council, credit agencies, landlords etc etc, please phone this number.

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